

growth of the human spirit. A wealth of books contributes much. It is a wise superintendent who would rather have a shabby school building with rich library facilities than an ornate and boastful school building which is poverty stricken in the matter of books. It is high time for school administrators to diminish their zeal for WPA building grants and consider the need of the children in the matter of books. Let's have a renaissance in regard to books and school libraries."

#### DR. PETERS SPEAKS IN KANSAS

DR. D. W. Peters, president of the Radford State Teachers College, will make an address on "The Unit as a Basis of Pupil Experience in Curriculum Development," before two sections of the Kansas State Teachers Association. Dr. Peters before his appointment as president of the Radford college was Director of Instruction for the Virginia State Board of Education and had general supervision over the Virginia Curriculum program. He will speak at Wichita on November 4 and at Hutchinson on November 5.

#### BOOK WEEK

BOOK Week will be observed this year from November 13 to 19. "Accent on Youth," a 16-page booklet for booksellers, librarians, scout-leaders, and teachers, listing all the suggestions, hints, and ideas that may be useful in the observance of Book Week, is available for free distribution. The manual also contains a good list of plays suitable for presentation. Requests should be sent to Book Week Headquarters, 62 West 45 Street, New York.

Book Week has helped to promote reading for fun and enlightenment in schools, libraries, and homes the country over, say those who endorse it.

### THE READING TABLE

READING FOR FUN. (A reading list for boys and girls in elementary schools). By Eloise Ramsey, Chairman and Editor. 211 West 68th Street, Chicago: National Council of Teachers of English, 20 cents; 15 cents in lots of ten or more.

What shall we read to the children? What shall they read to themselves? Parents and teachers who have been asking this question for years now have a most colorful answer in *Reading for Fun*, an attractively illustrated and annotated reading list.

It is not merely a book list. The annotations are addressed to the children, and one glance at its pages will send them straight to the library to find "the very book" they want. The books are grouped around the things children like to read about. If it is elephants they need to find out about, a whole page is devoted to them, opening with the remark,

"Babar is the gayest elephant in books. There are three beautiful books about his funny adventures, and those of Celeste, his sister: *The Story of Babar*, *The Travels of Babar*, and *Babar, the King* by Jean de Brunoff.

These are for little folk. Another whole page tells the wonders of elephants for older boys and girls.

So it goes, for ninety-five fascinating pages, from *Our Friend the Horse*, *Ships and Trains*, *Automobiles and Airplanes*, *Puppets and Marionettes*, to *Gay Handkerchiefs and Wooden Toys in Czechoslovakia* and *Christmas Everywhere*. No subject of interest to boys and girls is forgotten, and in each case the list is carefully chosen by recognized teachers of children's literature who have actually tried them out with children.

Each section such as *Old Tales and Brave Deeds*, *Magic and Poetry*, *Animals Everywhere*, and *City, Country, and Travel* is introduced by an enticing page of pictures done in blue and black by a clever artist who includes everything from the Potatoes' Dance to the Monkey's Tail.

This is a reading list to make readers of



boys and girls, and to give them a good time in the doing of it. One could wish that every boy and girl in America between the ages of six and fourteen might have a copy of *Reading for Fun*. It is a lovely "gift book" in appeal as well as in purpose. At only twenty cents a copy, hundreds of children should have that good fortune.

DORA V. SMITH

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THE UNITED STATES AT WORK. By Maud Cottingham Martin and Clyde Edwards Cooper. New York: D. C. Heath & Co., 1938. Pp. 656. \$1.96.

TEACHERS MANUAL, Pp. 37. 16 cents.

The broad informational background of the authors and the development of the text in classroom use strengthen the contents. The four popular-speech divisions are examined as production regions: the East, the South, the Middle West, and the West. The idea that Virginia and Maryland have gradually become a part of the industrial East will stimulate discussion.

The text is predominantly commendable, but it seems that too agreeable or kind-hearted critics checked the material. For instance, it is stated that Omaha is at the mouth of the Platte (p. 440) and that the entire Virginia portion of the Great Valley is known as the Shenandoah (p. 104). Furthermore, the use of "Fall Line" instead of the more accurate expression "Fall Belt," the occasional use of the traditional but misleading expression "temperate zone," and the soil classification given on pp. 81 and 82 all indicate that the authors or the publishers hesitate to accept recent observation or research. But in the hands of a teacher well-prepared in geography, the text would be truly helpful for seventh or eighth grade study.

The attempt to develop the habit of continuing the study of different industries in each division after completing the text is to be commended.

RAUS M. HANSON

TEACHING PROCEDURES IN HEALTH EDUCATION. By Howard L. Conrad and Joseph F. Miester. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company. 1938. 160 pp. \$1.75.

This book lays special emphasis on learning-by-doing techniques. It is planned for use in the secondary schools and is of value to teachers in that field. The authors discuss and give examples of the different types of units. Suggestions for visual aids are given and the subject is well covered. The testing of outcomes is discussed from various directions.

RACHEL WEEMS, M. D.

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REVIEW COURSE IN ALGERIA. By W. E. Sewell. New York: D. C. Heath and Company. 1938. 143 pp. \$1.20.

"Adapted for use in the latter part of the high school curriculum, or in any situation where the usual high school unit requirements in algebra have been completed but need to be reviewed" seems to the writer to suggest use with college freshmen.

The book contains ample exercises for review in all subjects of high school algebra which may be needed in college work, and could be advantageously used in the fourth year of high school as a requirement for all students who wish to enter college, and might be used as a part of the first term's work in college algebra in order to tie up the loose ends of the subject before more advanced work is begun.

H. A. C.

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PLANE TRIGONOMETRY. By George M. Hayes and Murray J. Leventhal. New York: Globe Book Company. 1938. 245 pp.

Although the authors claim that they have endeavored to bridge the gap between educational theory and practice, the reader finds only the elementary portions of trigonometry. The four place table of logarithms does not give the student the ability in the use of logarithms which a college student should have, especially if he attempts to carry mathematics further.

One is glad to see that mention is made of the slide rule, though not sufficient ex-



planation of its use is given to be of value to the student. H. A. C.

FRIENDLY DOGS. By Louise Schawe. Yonkers, N. Y.: World Book Co. 1938. 170 pp. 88 cents.

Sixteen true stories in which dogs are the principal characters, moving against a background of everyday life in fourteen different countries. Among them are Pierre in Canada, who helps his master farm and fish; Ney, who lives near a Mexican serapo factory; Waldi, a little dachshund, who became a hero in the Black Forest; Zanna, the foster mother of two lion cubs in the Brussels zoo. The stories have action and spontaneity, with a style and spirit unusual in books for third or fourth grade children.

## NEWS OF THE COLLEGE

Following the liberalization of college curricula to permit students to graduate with either the B.A. or B.S. and either with or without student-teaching experience, and following the extension of the course in business education, the enrolment this fall surpassed all previous figures and reached a total of 1081.

Approximately 900 students use the college dining rooms, but the residence halls do not provide accommodations for so many. About 75 students are therefore rooming in private homes near the college. There are over 100 day students who live in the city or nearby.

To care for new courses offered this year for the first time and for additional sections necessitated by the larger enrolment five new appointments have been made to the faculty of Madison College, as follows:

Robert E. Slaughter (M.S., University of Southern California) becomes professor of commercial education.

Fernando Q. Martinez (Ph. D., University of Virginia) becomes assistant professor of Spanish. Dr. Martinez has taught

in the Randolph-Macon Woman's College at Lynchburg and in Mary Baldwin College, Staunton.

Miss Ambrosia Noetzel (A. M., Iowa State College) becomes assistant professor of home economics.

Miss Josephine Walker (M. A., Columbia University) becomes supervisor of home economics, following the resignation of Miss Frances Houck to accept a position as supervisor of home economics training at the Farmville State Teachers College.

Miss Ruth Cooper (M. A., George Peabody College for Teachers) becomes supervisor of the second grade in place of Miss Marie Alexander, who is at Columbia University completing work for the doctor's degree.

The establishment of a department to train women for business is the result of this college's effort to meet the demand many young women are making for business training. Emphasis is placed on the four-year course in commercial education, but the State Board of Education has authorized the granting of junior commercial diplomas for completion of the two-year course.

What will some day be looked back to as a major event in the history of Madison College got under way without fanfare of trumpets when the Harrisonburg Building and Supply Company broke ground for the erection of a new library building on October 17. The building, which will stand on a line with Wilson and Reed Halls, facing west, will occupy the site of the tennis courts, to the north of Reed Hall.

The library will eventually house 80,000 volumes, with reference rooms, reserve book rooms, browsing room, several seminar rooms, and a children's book room.

The basal contract price for the building is \$118,000, and for furniture and equipment \$15,000. Architect's fees and other costs will absorb the remaining \$7,000.